



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No. Q77376

MORITA, Kiyoo, et al.

Appln. No. 10/673,443

Group Art Unit: 3654

Confirmation No. 2617

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: September 30, 2003

For: MAGNETIC TAPE CARTRIDGE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT **UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy each of the listed documents, other than any U.S. patents and patent publications, is submitted herewith.

1. Japanese Patent Application No. 09-274785, published October 21, 1997.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

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However, since a statement can be made, a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is being filed so that in the event an Office action has issued but has not yet been received by the undersigned, the Examiner will proceed to consider this Information Disclosure Statement.

Since the present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed thirty days or fewer from the communication from a foreign patent office, a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.704(d) is attached.

An English-language Abstract of JP 09-274785 is being submitted herewith and, therefore, no concise explanation for such foreign language document is required. Additionally, Applicants' enclose herewith an English-language copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents and indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



Billy Carter Raulerson
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SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: February 9, 2004



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STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Billy Carter Raulerson
Registration No. 52,156

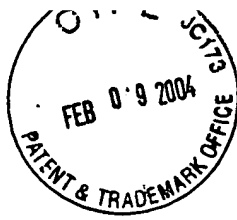
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Respectfully submitted,

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Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

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of

1

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/673,443
Confirmation Number	2617
Filing Date	September 30, 2003
First Named Inventor	MORITA, Kiyoo
Art Unit	3654
Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	Q77376

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		JP	9-274785		10/21/1997	KAO Corporation	Abstract

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
		Chinese Office Action	Yes

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.